Annual Report

Under section 23(1) of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the Species at Risk Committee must submit an annual report to the Conference of Management Authorities by July 1 each year. This annual report covers the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010.

The Species at Risk (NWT) Act

The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* (the Act) provides a process to identify, protect and recover species at risk in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The Act applies to any wild animal, plant or other species managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). It applies everywhere in the NWT, on both public and private lands, including private lands owned under a land claims agreement.

Wood Bison - Photo Credit: Bas Oosenbrug GNWT

Hairy Buckbean - Photo Credit: Jim Hines

Northern Leopard Frog - Photo Credit: Kris Kendell

Polar Bear - Photo Credit: Robert Mulders

The Species at Risk Committee

The Species at Risk Committee (the Committee) was established under the Act. It is an independent committee of experts responsible for assessing the biological status of species at risk in the NWT.

Species status assessments will be done at the territorial level, and results may be different from assessments done at the national level. Assessments will be based on species status reports that include the best available Aboriginal traditional knowledge, community knowledge and scientific knowledge of the species. The Committee must use objective biological criteria in its assessments and does not consider socio-economic factors.

The Committee will use the assessments to make recommendations on the listing of species at risk. The assessment categories for the legal list of species at risk are Extinct, Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern. Species can also be assessed as Not at Risk or Data Deficient. The Committee will identify threats and positive influences to species and their habitats, and may make recommendations on conservation measures for species at risk.

The Committee makes its recommendations to the Conference of Management Authorities, a group of boards and governments that share responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT. The Conference of Management Authorities includes wildlife co-management boards established under land claim agreements, Government of the Northwest Territories, Tłı̨chǫ Government, and Government of Canada.

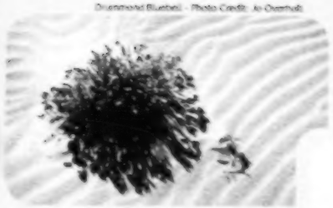
Committee Progress to March 31, 2010

The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* came into force on February 1, 2010. Following this, the first seven members and three alternates were appointed to the Committee.

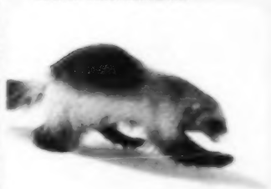
The Committee held its first meeting in March 2010. The Committee discussed rules for its meetings and its activities, and began developing criteria to prioritize possible species at risk for assessment.

The Committee has not yet formally identified any species for assessment or received any referrals or applications for species to be assessed. A species assessment schedule will be released in 2010/2011.

Short-eared Owl - Photo Credit: Doug Bonar



Wolverine - Photo Credit: Rob Cau



Rusty Blackbird - Photo Credit: Samuel Denault

Committee Membership

Species at Risk Committee members are appointed by the four wildlife co-management boards established under settled land claim and self-government agreements, the federal government and the Government of the NWT represented by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR). In areas without settled land claims, members are appointed by the Minister of ENR after consultation with the appropriate groups. Appointments are for up to five years.

Committee members must have significant expertise of species, habitat, northern ecosystems or conservation. Members act independently and not as representatives of their appointing bodies.

Committee Membership as of March 31, 2010:

- **Chairperson:** Mr. James Firth – member appointed by the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- **Alternate Chairperson:** Mr. Robert Gau – alternate appointed by the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
- Mr. Larry Carpenter – member appointed by the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
- Mr. Eugene Pascal – alternate appointed by the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- Mr. Chris Heron - member appointed by the Minister of ENR on the advice of the Northwest Territory Métis Nation
- Mr. Robert Kelly– member appointed by the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
- Mr. Walter Bayha – alternate appointed by the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
- Mr. Maise Rabesca – member appointed by the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board
- Dr. Suzanne Carrière – member appointed by the Minister of ENR
- Mr. Mike Gravel – member appointed by the Minister of ENR

Additional members and alternates, including those selected by the Government of Canada, Dehcho First Nations and Akaitcho Territory Government, will be appointed to the Committee in 2010/2011.

Contact

For more information about the Species at Risk Committee and its activities, please contact:

Species at Risk Secretariat

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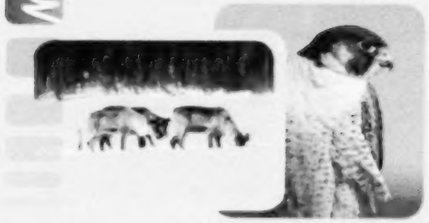
Respectfully submitted,

James Firth, Chairperson
Species at Risk Committee

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE

Cover Photo Credits: Boreal Woodland Caribou - John Nagy ©GNWT Dehcho
Peregrine Falcon - Gordon Court (right)



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
2009-2010